NOTE XXXVI.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LONGICORN GROUP OF THE BATOCERIDAE.

BY

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Recently Mr. Ritsema has published (vide ante p. 219) an alphabetical list of the described species of the genus *Batocera* with indication of the synonyms. These synonymical remarks are partly due to his own observations, partly to Mr. van Lansberge's informations concerning many of the Thomsonian species, and my own notices on the species described by Major Parry, whilst a few are copied from the Munich Catalogue. Having just now successively visited the Museums of Genoa, Darmstadt and London, as well as the private collection of Mr. Pascoe, I am able to give still some additional synonymical annotations on the types contained in the above mentioned collections.

The examination of the Batocerids of the Museum of Genoa did not afford me observations on the genus *Batocera* itself, but for the knowledge of the group it is interesting to know that *Apriona Straussi* Gestro proved to belong to the genus *Rosenbergia* Rits. It is closely allied to *R. vetusta* Rits. but differs in having the underside thickly clothed with long brown hairs, whilst the corresponding part in *vetusta* is covered with a short whitish pubescence. Mr. Gestro described his species from a large and robust ♀ specimen not unlike the ♀ of *R. megalocephala* v. d. Poll. From the knowledge of this second female results that the sexual differences of the development of the head and mandibles must be enumerated among the characteristics of the genus *Rosenbergia.*

At Darmstadt I found the Batocerids in a most deplorable condition, which made it very difficult to study them. Since Kaup's death, I believe about fourteen years ago, no special entomologist seems to have been charged with the care of the entomological collections, and either it is the carelessness of Kaup, who might have neglected to label his Batocerids, or somebody else has spoiled the collection by destroying nearly all the labels. Besides four or five labels, which are pinned before some specimens, they are all absent and not a single one of Kaup's type-specimens bears any indication as such. Moreover the greater part of the specimens are broken, gummed, rubbed, dirty and oily. Of the species described by Kaup, *B. Rosenbergii* and *Apriona punctatissima* are so very distinct that I easily recognized them, but it was much more difficult to identify the dubious *B. Whitei* and *B. Wieneckei*, in as much as the collection proved to consist of well known species only. Under these circumstances I thought it the best plan to make a catalogue of the contents of the drawer, with such annotations and sketches as could be useful to recognize the specimens afterwards. The drawer proved to contain: one *B. Celebiana* Th., three *B. albofasciata* Deg., four *B. rubus* L., two *B. lineolata* Chevr., one *B. Rosenbergii* Kaup, one *B. hercules* Boisd., one *B. humeridens* Th., six *B. hector* Th. & *helena* Th. (both species are as usually mixed up, and are partly in so bad a condition that I could not separate them with certainty; they are mistaken by Kaup for *B. Ajax* (Dej.) Th., according to the label pinned before them, and whilst Kaup in his publication compares his *B. Whitei* with *Ajax*), two *B. laena* Th., two *B. Wallacei* Th., four *B. armata* Oliv. (a specimen with white-spotted elytra bears the manuscript name *dubia* Kaup), one *Abatocera leonina* Th., one *Apriona punctatissima* Kaup, one *A. spec.* (*α*), one *A. spec.* (*β*), and a Lamiid not belonging to the group of the Batoceridae.

A careful comparison of Kaup's descriptions and figures with my own notes and remarks convinced me that Kaup undoubtedly has described a ♀ of *B. armata* as *B. Whitei* and a ♂ of *B. humeridens* as *B. Wieneckei*. The description of *Wieneckei* does not well agree with *humeridens*, but this is only due to the very bad condition of Kaup's type-specimen, which is strongly rubbed and almost entirely destitute of the white pubescence on the elytra. The *Apriona* which I marked *α* proved to be *A. Deyrollei* Kaup from Sylhet, that marked *β* *A. flavescens* Kaup from Sumatra; both species are closely allied. *A. flavescens* is a larger and rather broad species, showing a thorax with numerous irregular wrinkles on the disk, and elytra with numerous granules at the base, which become more distant at the shoulders; *A. Deyrollei* is a smaller and slender species, having the thorax covered with a few wrinkles, forming a triangle which is placed with its base on the frontmargin, and the basal portion of the elytra sparingly covered with granules which become very closely set at the shoulder-region.

Last not least the Lamiid which I indicated as not belonging to the group of the Batocerids, and which has proved to be *Iothocera tomentosa* Buq., is Kaup's *Apriona humeralis* ¹).

My inquiries about Newman's types, which may be found

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1) Mr. Snellen van Vollenhoven and Mr. Ritsema have both published a notice on the Batocerids of the Leyden Museum, wherein mention is made of a specimen of *Apriona humeralis* Kaup from Bouru; as the Museum specimen is a true *Apriona* it has of course nothing to do with the misplaced insect described by Kaup under that name.

in the collection of the British Museum, showed the exactness of Mr. Ritsema's supposition concerning *B. aphetor* Newm. and *B. rixator* Newm. Both these species belong undoubtedly to the genus *Apriona*. *A. aphetor* is nearest allied to *A. punctatissima* Kaup, according to the thick and woolly pubescence; its prothorax is provided with numerous wrinkles, like that of *A. flavescens* Kaup, and the base of the elytra is thinly covered with small and pointed granules, the shoulders are strongly prominent but rounded, with a hardly perceptible obtuse humeral-tooth and the apex is armed with four strong spines. *A. rixator* is the smallest Apriona I am acquainted with; its thorax is slightly wrinkled and the elytra are covered at the base with a very few large and distant granules, the humeral-tooth is very large but obtuse, the apex is provided with four blunt spines, and the undersurface shows a white band along the sides. *B. numitor* Newm. is a true *Batocera* but not a distinct species; a careful comparison with *B. Ajax* (Dej.) Th. (which is already recorded from Celebes), convinced me that there is not a single characteristic to separate it specifically from that species. Besides two large specimens, there are also two much smaller ones in the Museum collection, which are ornated with some small brownish spots on the elytra, but otherwise they do not differ.

These observations on *B. numitor* involuntarily induced me to put the question »what are the specific differences between *B. titana* Th. and *B. Ajax* (Dej.) Th.?" At first sight the differences between *B. titana*, with spotted elytra and thorax, and *Ajax*, with immaculate elytra and thorax, is very large, however a series of intermediate forms to connect these extreme links is present. The elytral spots of *titana* are very large in some specimens, but in other ones they are very small, like those of *rubus* L.; *B. javanica* Th. is a variety of *titana* with inconspicuous red spots on the thorax, but on the other hand a specimen of *Ajax* in my own cabinet presents a distinctly spotted thorax. Besides these most variable differences of the covering pile, I am quite unable to find a single characteristic justifying a specific separation, in all the essential points, as the peculiar structure of the antennae, the shape of the thorax, the truncature of the elytra etc., they correspond exactly. My opinion is that *B. Ajax* (Dej.) Th. must be regarded as the immaculate variety of *B. Titana* Th.

The Banksian collection, which has served Fabricius for his descriptions and is now preserved in the British Museum, contains a ♂ specimen of *B. humeridens* Th. under the name of *B. rubus* Fabr. Fabricius almost always indicates from what collection he has described the species, but unfortunately his *B. rubus* is wanting this useful indication; however it is most probable that the specimen mentioned above is the very type.

Most of the synonymical remarks about the species described by Mr. Pascoe proved to be correct. *B. Ammon* Pasc. must certainly be referred to *B. armata* Oliv.; Mr. Pascoe's name is chiefly relative to small male specimens of *armata*. *B. orcus* Pasc. was founded upon a ♂ & ♀ specimen of the variety of *B. armata* Oliv. with distinct white spots on the elytra. *B. metallescens* Pasc. is a large strongly rubbed specimen of *B. celebiana* Th. *B. cinnamomea* Pasc. ♀ is a distinct species and not at all identical with *B. armata* Oliv. ♀; it is more nearly allied to the female of *B. Wallacei* Th., its prothorax being very like that of the latter; from *armata* it might easily be distinguished by the last antennal joint, which is not spatula-shaped, and by the truncature of the elytra, which is not cut off in a straight line, but is rather deeply emarginated. In regard to *B. Claudia*, Mr. Pascoe kindly informed me that he had made mention of it only incidentally; moreover the specimen is no longer in his cabinet and Mr. Pascoe did not remember what became of it, of course this name ought to drop from the genus.

Taking into consideration the synonymical observations contained in Mr. Ritsema's note and the rectifications and additions given in this paper, the genus *Batocera* should be composed of the following species and varieties:

Adelpha Thoms. — Assam.
Aeneonigra Thoms. — Ternate, Halmaheira, Morty, Waigiou.
Albofasciata Deg. (*octomaculata* F., *stigma* Voet, *Downesi* Hope). — E. India, E. I. Archipelago.
    Var. *Sarawakensis* Thoms. — Borneo.
    Var. *Magica* Thoms. — Java.
    Var. *Sabina* Thoms. [1]) — Borneo, Sumatra.
Andamana Thoms. — Andaman Isl.
Armata Oliv. (*Thomae* Voet, *Lacordairei* Thoms., *Ammon* Pasc., *Whitei* Kaup). — Amboyna, Ceram, Celebes, Aru Isl.
    Var. *Orcus* Pasc. (*dubia* Kaup i. litt.). — Ceram.
Boisduvali Hope. — Australia.
Browni Bates. — Duke of York Isl., N. Australia.
Bruyni Lansb. — Sanghir Isl.
Calanus Parry. — Assam.
    Var. *guttata* Voll. [2]) (*octomaculata* Thoms. nec. Fabr., *Fabricii* Thoms.). — Sumatra, Java.
Celebiana Thoms. (*octomaculata* Boisd. nec Fabr. [3]), *metallescens* Pasc.). — Celebes.
    Var. *obliqua* Voll. [4]) — Bouru, Boano.
Chevrolati Thoms. — E. India.
Cinnamomea Pasc. — Sula.

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1) I regard this species only as a variety of *albofasciata* with strongly reduced white band along the sides of the undersurface.

2) Thomson mistook this species for the Fabrician species, some time afterwards perceiving his error he rebaptized it *Fabricii*, but in the mean time Vollenhoven had described the same insect under the name of *Megacriodes guttata*.

3) The Batocera from Menado (N. Celebes) described and figured by Boisduval under the name of *octomaculata* Fabr. must be referred to *Celebiana* Thoms.

4) This species I believe to be only a local variety of *Celebiana* Thoms.

Davidis H. Deyr. — China.
Eurydice Thoms. — Java.
Frenchi v. d. Poll. — Queensland.
Gerstaeckeri Thoms. — Sula.
Gigas Drap. — Java, Borneo.
Hector Thoms. — Java, Borneo.
Helena Thoms. (*Attila* Pasc.). — Siam, Sumatra.
Hercules Boisd. — Celebes.
Horsfieldi Hope. [1] — Assam.
Humeridens Thoms. (*rubus* Fabr. forte, *pulverosa* Pasc., *Wieneckei* Kaup). — Timor.
Lactiflua Fairm. — New Britain.
Laena Thoms. — Aru Isl., New Guinea.
  Var. *Sappho* Thoms. — Cape York.
Lineolata Chevr. (*Chinensis* Thoms., *Catenata* (De Haan) Voll.). — Japan, China.
Meleager Pasc. — Bouru.
Mniszechi Thoms. — Philippine Isl.
Nebulosa Bates. — Duke of York Isl., Fidgi Isl.
Plutonica Thoms. (*Orpheus* Pasc.). — Morty.
Rosenbergii Kaup. — Flores.
Roylei Hope (*Parryi* Hope, *Porus* Parry, *Princeps* Redtenb., *Megacriodes ebenina* Voll.). — Assam, Sylhet, Himalaya.
Rubus L. (*rufomaculata* Deg., *rubiginosa* Voet, *cruentata* Gmel.). — Mauritius, Bourbon, Reunion, E. India.
  Var. *Chlorinda* Thoms. — E. India.
  Var. *Thysbe* Thoms. — Cochinchina.
Thomsoni Javet. — Borneo, Banka, Riouw, Sumatra.
Titana Thoms. (*ferruginea* Thoms.). — E. India, Ceylon, Sumatra.
  Var. *Javanica* Thoms. — Java.

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[1] Judging from the short and bad description of Hope's *Lamia Horsfieldi*, I think it most probable that it will prove to belong to the form of *Batocera Titana* Thoms. with large ill-defined spots on the elytra; if the examination of Hope's type might show the correctness of my supposition, *B. Titana* becomes a synonym of *Horsfieldi*, being subsequent in date to the latter.

Var. *Ajax* (Dej.) Thoms. (*Numitor* Newm.). — Java, Banka, Sumatra, Celebes, Philippine Isl.

Una White. — New Hebrides.

Victoriana Thoms. — Borneo.

Wallacei Thoms. — Aru Isl.

Var. *Proserpina* Thoms. (*Woodlarkiana* Montr. forte[1]). — New Guinea, Salomon Isl., Ins. Woodlark.

Wyliei Chevr. (*Albertiana* Thoms.). — Old Calabar, Gaboon, Congo.

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1) The description of *B. Woodlarkiana* Montr. does not at all agree with *B. Boisduvali* Hope, and the authors of the Munich Catalogue have wrongly placed it in synonymy with the latter. I think it more probable that it must be referred to *B. Wallacei* var. *Proserpina* Thoms., of which I have seen specimens from the Salomon Islands, a group of islands close to the island of Woodlark.